13 खनिज, जिन्हें इससे पहले (1993 तक) सिर्फ सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित रखा गया था, गवेषण तथा विदोहन के लिए विदेशी निवेश तथा उदयतन प्रौद्योगिकी सहित बड़ी मात्रा में निवेश को आकर्षित करने के लिए निजी क्षेत्र के लिए खोल दिया गया है। राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 1993 को क्रियान्वित करने के लिए 1994 में खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 में संशोधन किए गए जिनमें, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, विदेशी निवेश संवर्धन बोर्ड की स्वीकृति के बाद भारत की खनन कंपनियों में विदेशी इक्विटी पर प्रतिबंधों को हटाना, जिससे 100% विदेशी इक्विटी दी जा सके, बशर्ते कंपनी भारत में पंजीकृत हो; खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 1957 की प्रथम अनुसूची के भाग (ग) से 15 खनिजों को हटाना; खनन पट्टे की न्यूनतम अवधि को 20 वर्ष करके खनन पट्टे की अधिकतम अवधि को 20 वर्ष से बढ़ाकर 30 वर्ष करके, खनन पट्टा नवीकरण की अधिकतम अवधि को 10 वर्ष से बढ़ाकर 20 वर्ष करके, पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंस (पी०एल०) की अवधि को दो वर्ष से बढ़ाकर तीन वर्ष करके तथा पूर्वेक्षण लाइसेंसों को दो वर्ष तक नवीकरण की मंजूरी देकर अवधि को बेहतर स्थायित्व प्रदान करने के प्रावधान शामिल हैं। खनिज रियायत नियमावली, 1960 तथा संरक्षण तथा विकास नियमावली, 1988 में भी तदनुसार संशोधन किए गए।

इसके अलावा, देश में खनिज संसाधनों के तीव्र गति से गवेषण के लिए अद्यतन हवाई सर्वेक्षण प्रौद्योगिकियों का प्रयोग कर बड़े क्षेत्रों में हवाई पूर्वेक्षण करने के बारे में 30.10.1986 को दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए/राजस्थान, गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र तथा बिहार राज्यों में 51000 वर्ग किमी० क्षेत्र में बड़े क्षेत्रों में ऐसे हवाई पूर्वेक्षण के 36 प्रस्ताव अभी तक मनजूर किए गए हैं। इन प्रस्तावों में से एक प्रस्ताव बिहार से संबंधित है जिसमें 2472 वर्ग किमी० क्षेत्र में तांबे संबद्ध खनिजों के गवेषण के लिए, मैसर्स फेल्पस डॉज एक्सप्लोरेशन इंडिया प्रा० लिमिटेड को अनुमति दी गई है।

Modernisation Steel Plant Under SAIL

3629. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation of various steel plants under SAIL has given positive results; and

(b) if so, money spent on modernisation of these plants and to what extent the production has improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):(a) the facilities progressively commissioned under modernisation of various steel plants have given some positive results in terms of production and technoeconomics.

(b) The total amount spent on the modernisation of Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants till 31.3.98 is Rs. 10390.80 crores.

While modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant is complete. the modernistion programmes at Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants are still underway. The production in Durgapur Steel Plant has been as follows:

(figures in '000 tonens)

Item	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Saleable Steel	641	852	947	1093	1259

Revival Package for Bharat Refractories Limited

3630. SHRI C.O POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BIFR has approved the revival package for Bharat Refractories Limited;

(b) if so, the details of the package; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure implementation of the package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): : (a) Yes, Sir. Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) approved a revival scheme for Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) in September, 1996.

(b) The salient features of BIFR revival package were:

(i) Waiver of interest accrued on loans as on 31.3.95 amounting to Rs. 6164 lakhs;

(ii) Conversion of 50% of plan loan as on 31st March, 1995 representing Rs. 3975.89 lakhs into equity and the balance into 12% term loan with interest holiday for 3 years and moratorium on loan repayment for 4 years;

(iii) Conversion of Rs. 12.05 lakhs of non plan loan into 7% non cumulative prefrential shares redeemable in 10 years;

(iv) Sanction of loans to cover the cost of scheme envisaged at Rs. 3100 lakhs during VIII Plan, and

(v) Merger of India firebricks and Insulation Company Limited (IFICO) with BRL.

(c) Government have already provided these financial reliefs/concessions to BRL. BRL and IFICO have also merged with effect from 1.10.1997.

Setting up of New Steel Plants

3631. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to setting up new steel plants;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to set-up new steel plants in different States including Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposal to set-up a steel plant at Nayagrah in Keonjhar district of the State of Orissa and another at Paradeep in that State has been pending since long; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to implement that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) According to New Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, Iron and Steel Industry among others, has been removed from the list of Industries reserved for public sector, and also exempted from the provisions of compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 subject to the condition that the proposed project is not located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of mere than 10 lacs according to the 1991 Census. The condition, however, does not apply if the plant is located in any approved industrial area.

No industrial licence from Government is, therefore, necessary to set up any iron and steel plants and entrepreneurs are required to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) according to the above policy.

(b) and (c) The Union Government at present have no proposal to set up any new steel plant in the Central Public Sector in any part of the country.

(d) and (e) No Industrial Licence application under I (D&R) Act for grant of Letter of Intent/Industrial License is pending with the Union Government for setting up a steel plant at Nayagrah in Keonjhar District and Pradeeep in the State of Orissa.

Implementation of Durgapur Steel Modernisation Schemes

3632. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has pointed out serious lapses in the implementation of Durgapur Steel Modernisation Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;